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PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

[ISSUED FEBRUARY 20TH, 1866.]

SESSION 1865-66.

Second Meeting, Nov. 27th, 1865.

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, K.C.B., PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

PRESENTATION.—*Alfred Davis, Esq.*

ELECTIONS.—*Lieut. the Hon. John Abercromby; John Bowring, Esq.; William T. H. Chambers, Esq.; R. C. Clipperton, Esq. (H.B.M.'s Consul at Kertch); Major Octavius Yorke Cocks; Binney J. Colvin, Esq.; Rev. Thomas Debarry, M.A.; George T. Edwards, Esq., B.A.; Captain Thomas Fraser; Colonel John E. Gowen; Francis W. Grant (late Capt. 16th Lancers); Henry Hadley, Esq., M.D.; William Harrison, Esq.; Charles Hole, Esq.; Captain Thomas Hunt, R.H.A.; W. Hanks Lèvy, Esq.; Malcolm Mactaggart, Esq.; James MacDonald, Esq.; John L. Merivale, Esq.; Lt.-Colonel J. E. Michell, R.H.A.; Commander George Palmer, R.N.; Frederic Silva, Esq.; Captain F. N. Sullivan, R.N., C.B.; Hon. George Solomons; Rev. James H. Taylor; John Henwood Thomas, Esq.; G. W. R. Walker, Esq.; Lieut. Arthur W. White, R.A.; Captain William M. Wolfe, R.A.*

ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY SINCE THE LAST MEETING, NOV. 13TH, 1865.—‘Chinese Miscellanies: a Collection of Essays and Notes,’ by Sir J. F. Davis, Bart. ‘Notes on the Map of the Holy Land,’ by C. W. M. Van der Velde. ‘Notice Historique et Géographique sur l’État de la Question du Canal du Darien,’ par M. V. A. Malte-Brun. All presented by their respective authors. Continuations of ‘Journals,’ ‘Transactions,’ Periodicals, &c. &c.

ACCESSIONS TO THE MAP-ROOM SINCE THE LAST MEETING consist of 9 maps, on 17 sheets, and 122 sheets of the Ordnance Survey. Map of the Arctic and Antarctic Regions; Map of the North Pole, on star-like projection; Map of Spitzbergen; Map of Island

of Candia; by A. Petermann. A Chinese Map of China, by J. L. Southey, Esq. Geological Sketch of the Province of Wellington, New Zealand. Geological Sections of the Province of Wellington, New Zealand. Map of United States, on 3 sheets, by E. G. Ravenstein, Esq. 7 Maps of the River Nile, by Dr. Kiepert. Ordnance Maps, 122 in number, the Ordnance Survey Office.

The PRESIDENT said, before he called upon the Secretary to read the communications (which were exclusively upon Australia), it was his painful duty to announce the failure of two African expeditions, upon the success of which geographers had set their hearts. Those who had attended the meetings of the Society would recollect that the greatest importance had been attached to an expedition fitted out by Baron Charles von der Decken, a Hanoverian nobleman, to explore the interior of Africa from the east coast, proceeding from Zanzibar and ascending one of the rivers of that coast. For this purpose he had fitted out two steamers entirely at his own expense, and provided the expedition with every sort of material to enable it to succeed. This was the same vigorous explorer who was the first to really settle that great question of a snowy mountain under the equator, the mountain of Kilimandjaro. The news which has just been communicated by Col. Playfair, our Consul at Zanzibar, now in England, was to the effect that the Baron had lost both his steamers on the bar of the River Jub; was nearly dead himself with cholera or dysentery; and that his party had been in collision with the natives. The other, but much more partial failure, was that of M. Du Chaillu, who had most nobly appropriated all the little fortune he had gained by the sale of his work to the fitting out of a fresh expedition. He had been in the first place delayed because his instruments were lost by the upsetting of a canoe; but he waited for fresh instruments, and in the mean time devoted himself to the collection of objects of natural history. After shipping these to England, and thus supplying the British Museum with numerous fine specimens of the gorilla and other animals, he at last proceeded upon his travels into the interior; and all that was heard of him was that he had penetrated into the Ashira country, and gone far beyond the point he attained during his former journey. He had undergone great difficulties, apparently; but nothing further had been communicated until the receipt of a telegram on Saturday evening last from Dartmouth, in these words: "Obliged to fight my way back to the coast; wounded twice; astronomical observations and journals saved; will be in town on Monday." Notwithstanding this calamitous result, he (the President) was very happy to find that the conclusion of the telegram assured us that this adventurous explorer had preserved his observations, which would undoubtedly be of great value, and the Society would hope to hear shortly from his own lips, at one of its meetings, the knowledge he had obtained in this expedition.

The following Papers were read—

1. *An Overland Expedition from Port Denison, Queensland, to Cape York, under the command of Messrs. F. and A. Jardine.* By MR. RICHARDSON, Surveyor to the Expedition.

(Communicated by SIR GEORGE BOWEN, Governor of Queensland, through the COLONIAL OFFICE.)

THIS was an account of a remarkable journey undertaken for the purpose of discovering a route whereby live stock could be